

Message Text

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12

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 SS-15

PRS-01 NSC-05 /040 W

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R 272331Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7072

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

UNCLAS MEXICO 11083

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE HUNGER STRIKE BY AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO

1. THE EMBASSY HAS COME INTO POSSESSION OF COPIES OF OPEN LETTERS DATED AUGUST 26, ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JIMMY CARTER AND SIGNED BY "THE COMMITTEE OF 120 ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICAN IMPRISONED IN MEXICO. THE LETTER TO THE SECRETARY MENTIONS THE HOPE GENERATED AMONG THE PRISONERS BY HIS REMARKS ON THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE AND THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT SUCH VIOLATIONS WHEN HE VISITED MEXICO. SINCE THE VISIT IN JUNE, THE LETTER INDICATES, THE PRISONERS HAVE ESTABLISHED LINES OF COMMUNICATION (APPARENTLY AMONG THEMSELVES) AND HAVE DETERMINED THAT THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATE A DECISIVE AND DEDICATED REACTION TO THEIR GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF INTEREST IN THEIR PLIGHT. THE LETTER GOES ON TO SAY THAT ON SEPTEMBER 7, THE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF MEXICO WILL COMMENCE A HUNGER STRIKE BECAUSE (1) THEY HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE STUDY OF THE PROBLEM PROMISED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER(I.E., THE PROMISE TO STUDY THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR TRANSFER OF SANCTIONS) AND (2) THEY HAVE ALREADY WAITED FOR TWO YEARS FOR AN END TO MISTREATMENT BY THE MEXICANS. THE LETTER CONCLUDES WITH A REQUEST FOR THE SECRETARY TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR IMMEDIATE REPTRIATION.

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2. THE LETTER TO MR. CARTER CONGRATULATES HIM ON HIS EFFICIENT CAMPAIGN AND BRINGS TO HIS ATTENTION IN A GENERAL WAY THE MISTREATMENT TO WHICH THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED. IT REFERS TO THE 1974 HUNGER STRIKE AND TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CASE REVIEW, WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THEIR ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIATED AND THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DELINQUENT IN PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN MEXICO. THE LETTER REFERS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT AND SAYS THAT QUOTE A GESTURE WAS VOICED BY DR. KISSINGER IN REFERENCE TO INITIATING A STUDY OF THE PROBLEM BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS. THAT WAS NEARLY THREE MONTHS AGO. WE CAN ASSUME THAT THE QUOTE STUDY UNQUOTE WAS MERELY A DILATORY ACTION GEARED TO PACIFY US UNTIL SOME FUTURE DATE UNQUOTE. QUOTE THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT FORD HAS BEEN WHOLLY REMISS IN ITS LACK OF DECISIVE AND URGENT ACTION ON OUR BEHALF UNQUOTE. THE LETTER ENDS WITH REFERENCE TO THE HUNGER STRIKE TO BE CONTINUED UNTIL THEY ARE REPATRIATED.

3. BOTH LETTERS INDICATED THAT COPIES HAD BEEN SENT TO THE AP, UPI, PRESIDENT FORD, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND DR. SERGIO GARCIA RAMIREZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TECHNICAL COMMISSION OF FEDERAL DISTRICT PRISONS UNDER SECRETARY OF GOBERNACION AND LATE DIRECTOR OF LECUMBERRI. FULL TEXT-BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.
JOVA

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Decaption Note:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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